

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

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AGENDA

Meeting Date: Friday, April 18, 2014 **Time:** 10:00 am - Noon
Place: Veteran's Memorial Hall
801 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Please RSVP to Chair by email or 235-5779, if you are unable to attend this meeting.

10:00 am Call for a Quorum
Call to Order

- Flag Salute
- Roll Lists
- Approval of March Minutes (April Minute Taker, Maddy)
- Approval of Agenda
- Guest and Public Comment [will be incorporated into Unfinished Business](#)

Introductions: Guests & Members; Agency introductions & updates

Chair Report:

- Binder additions (PLEASE BRING BINDERS)
- Housing Element Power Point handout

Unfinished Business: Public may voice concerns (2 min) during this discussion

- **Priority Ranking process** continues (pertinent documents for [discussion](#) will be emailed)
 - * Themes
 - * Topics
 - * Focus

New Business:

- Jerry Rioux suggestions for advocacy (see March minutes)?

Other Announcements:

Adjournment:

Next Meeting, May 16, 2014 Minute Taker, Maryanne

SLO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Veterans Memorial Hall
801 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo
Minutes April 18, 2014

Members Present: Maryanne Zarycka, Anita Shower, Kathleen Bellefontaine, Marilyn Hamilton, Carol Schmidt, Myra Lathrop, Roger Randall, Leonard Milstein, Elias Nimeh, Angela Viles, Julie Macedo, Rosa Fernandez, Brittany Carraway

Absent: Alice York, Judy Mishoulam, Marie Pounders, Gari Cave

Guests: Liz Ruth (Caren Ray LA), Tim Covello (Assistant District Atty), Peta Rimington, Joan Drake (SLO Senior Center President), Jenna Milot (Dist Atty Ofc Intern), Mike Suddarth, Charles Whittaker

10:00 AM Quorum Established.

Call to Order: by Chair Bellefontaine. Flag Salute. Circulation of roll lists.

Minutes from March, 2014 approved with one modification

Agenda approved as written.

Public Comments: see below

Introductions: Guests & Members & Agency introduction & updates

Guest **Tim Covello**, Assistant District Attorney and candidate for District Attorney, spoke briefly about his background. Some highlights: 21 years of service in County; prosecuted the first major elder abuse embezzlement People v. Baker case (first time used 186.11 enhancement); if elected, will revisit, update and reorganize economic crime department.

Chair expressed appreciation for the continual representation from the District Atty's office over the last 6 plus years and hopes that this commitment will be continued. Kathleen clarified that should Dan Dow contact COA he would also be most welcome.

Chair Report:

-Binder Additions distributed to members: New name roster and term roster, updated Officer' tasks, regulation for use of COA Stationery (from department of social services).

- Housing Element: Power Point handout from last month's presentation distributed to members. Chair pointed out some data that are important to our continued concerns about future senior housing planning. Discussion ensued about affordability of senior housing. If/when older people have to move from their homes will they find affordable rent in this area? Their rent is likely to be higher than 30% of their income when percent for housing should not be over 30% of income. Anticipating a clash with what is available and the numbers of those who will seek affordable housing

Members were invited to meet with Dana Lilly, **Department of Planning & Building**, April 30th, to learn more about the Housing Element process and voice concerns about incorporation of more accessibility in future complexes. Chair will send notice of this meeting.

- Best use of 911 during a disaster:

- Information regarding what to do during a disaster sent out by ATT warns callers of 911 not to hang up and redial if they get a connection (ring tone) on the first try. 911 doesn't drop call when people hang up, so calls accumulate and line eventually will be unable to take more calls even though many are disconnected already.
- Tim Covello notes that they can trace calls that are open lines, so don't hang up because there is no way to trace once the phone is no longer on the line.

Unfinished Business: 2014-2015 Priority Ranking process continues

Discussion about-Themes –Topics and –Focus. Two worksheets with lists of these suggestions were provided to all members and guests:

1) Member Suggestions were collected from the special March Roster and 2) Data collected from 211 calls

Member & Public comment(s) about which topics are most important to them:

High points from discussion about:

Housing:

- Peta Rimmington emphasized that Planners and Developers need to receive input from people who are actually going to live in senior and disabled housing to emphasize the benefits that such features as roll in showers versus bathtubs, cupboards & light switches that can be reached, etc have to quality of life.
- State is trying to save money and only supports skilled nursing instead of assisted living costs and care for people in their homes at the end of life.
- Eviction process involving seniors. Where do these people go?
- Finding affordable housing through section 8 is impossible; finding affordable rentals outside of HUD is impossible.
- Baby boomers moving to SLO should be big motivator for developers to listen to types of housing that will be in demand such as single story housing for elderly community. COA should be ready with ideas.
- Housing projects: COA should keep looking at future designs, multi generation, co-housing

Mental and physical health

- Funding is needed for more respite and adult day care for spouses caring for spouses with dementia. The present resources that are available to senior community should be better publicized. Suggestion to have Alice Crawford from central coast caregivers, present info about what she offers.
- Focus on future of senior centers. SLO Senior Center Board President, Joan Drake, wants to eliminate the stigma that senior citizens go to the Centers only to play bridge & bingo. Nowadays they do chair exercises, brain aerobics, and much more. Need to reach people who are in their 50's and 60's to change the image of senior centers in order to bring them in. In terms of next year, put together another panel to get media and print attention to hear from community voices and find ways to support each other.
- Would like to see more workshops or demos or wellness fairs for seniors.

Affordable Services

- How to increase access to information about community resources. North County Social Services has their own list maybe other DSS offices have the same and this could be coordinated. Senior Connection and Senior Info Guide still the best sources.
- Home Maintenance and Preservation of Homes. More funding needed for these programs such as putting in lifts and ramps.
- Maintaining homes can keep people in their home. Finding affordable help to do this is extremely hard. Young people need to learn how to do simple repairs. Can we work with Cuesta on this idea?

- How to get volunteers from colleges or younger cohort to offer senior community maintenance needs

Safety

- Many Seniors do not have or are not capable of keeping their financial matters in order. More Conservators or Guardians needed.
- More info about Advanced Directives for Health Care are still needed. Karen Jones would be a good resource to address this issue.
- Support for more information and how to access resources. Family members and seniors could benefit from knowing their rights.
- Internet safety-will continue to be top ongoing priority re: scam safety and internet safety updates from Dist Atty office. Note: Seminar Friday may 9th in Paso Robles at culinary institute.
- Care management: how to get affordable services through Insurance such as SCAN in So Cal or Medicare?

**Important to note, that even those topics that do not rise to the top 5 will be given consideration for future speakers if ranking is indicative that there is an interest.*

New Business:

-Chair asked members to review Jerry Rioux's 6 recommendations for making housing more affordable in this County to be included in 2014 Housing Element, presented at April meeting. All members received a copy. At the May meeting this document will be considered for ACTION to send COA letters of support for these recommendations to the Home Builder Association and to the Board of Supervisors.

Other Announcements: none

Adjournment:

Next Meeting: May 16, 2014. Minute Taker, Maryanne